A Q&A with the Squid Research Lab

Nintendo Dream Magazine, October 2018

While digging through a Japanese e-book site, I came across this magazine which contained a Splatoon developer interview that was totally undocumented and untranslated...until now

Huge thanks to Judas for buying the magazine for me! absolute madlad.

They put the magazine up on archive.org for anyone to read!

Click the link and flip to page 13 to follow along!

[Italics and in brackets and smaller font are my notes. Plain italics are the image captions.]

Translated by rassicas

[EDIT (March 2023): I want to mention that the pages before the interview are a review of Splatoon's story up until Octo Expansion. Despite being a "review", there's one piece of information that I don't think has shown up anywhere else.]

"It seems that even to this day, the leader of the Octarians, General DJ Octavio, due to injuries sustained in the loss of the Great Turf War, became no longer able to take on his humanoid form."

[It'd never been mentioned before why Octavio stays in Octopus form. Neat. Ok on to the interview.]

Q: Marina's career went from "Joining Slimeskin Garrison and specializing in improving Great Octoweapons." to "Being assigned to the wasabi supply unit of DJ Octavio", which is quite a different department, but is this a demotion or a promotion?

[The text next to this lists her military history. Same as in the Octo Expansion chat logs]

A: Although it is called a "Supply Unit", it is a position that only elites can take, as it is a unit directly subordinate to DJ Octavio that watches and supports him as he DJs.

This is a Flooder, designed by Marina during the time she was an elite Octoling. A fearsome weapon that automatically tracks its target and fills it with ink. Its sturdiness is also noteworthy.

Q: Looking at the mem cake for "Marina", it seems that Agent 8 has known her for a long time. Were they acquainted with each other?

A: Marina was a renowned genius in the Octarian world, and she had the respect of many. They weren't acquaintances, since Agent 8 was a trainee, they just knew of Marina one way or another.

From the conversations and chats, it seems that Marina at least didn't know about Agent 8.

For Agent 8, Marina seemed to be so familiar to them that they "recognized her immediately just by her voice.”

Q: I heard that "Mem cakes" are kneaded up memories from Agent 8, but what exactly are they?

A: Mem cakes are a reward that test subjects receive as proof of clearing each stage in Kamabo Co.’s experimental facility. The memories of the test subjects are extracted and kneaded into a tangible object that can be collected. After collecting the four thangs, the test subjects get carefully preserved, as they have proven their existence to the world. They are ultimately kneaded into a paste, losing their original form and consciousness, and thus becoming one with existence.

There are a total of 80 types of Mem cakes. If you can get all of them back in a complete form, you'll be a battle master.

Q: Seeing that the Deepsea denizens are using the metro, do the Deepsea Metro stations function as normal stations in addition to holding challenges?

A: Yes. The Deep Sea Metro is a sort of corporate city centered around the huge facilities of Kamabo Corporation. It serves not only the residents who commute to Kamabo Co., but also the residents who live in the area.

Normally, the train is used for commuting to work and school. It seems that Agent 8 and the others are the irregular passengers here.

Q: What kind of everyday activities does Iso Padre do? He gives off this feeling of being someone out of the ordinary...

A: Iso Padre is on a never-ending journey on the Deepsea Metro. He got on the train because he wanted to go somewhere, but he is still searching, not knowing if the journey itself was the goal or if there is a station somewhere to get off. In the midst of all this, He feels a light that he has never seen before in Agent 8 and Cap’n Cuttlefish: a clear purpose of going to the surface. And that is something Iso Padre finds fascinating.

Q: After Agent 8 and the others made it to the surface, I think that Iso Padre could also go out to the surface where he has longed to go if he wanted to...but why do we not see him doing just that?

A: I believe that Iso Padre has his own intentions. That is why he did not go to the surface with Agent 8 and the others. When longing and purpose coincide, what remains after reaching the goal? With this in mind, even now Iso Padre continues to ride the metro to find his purpose.

Iso Padre shows himself as one who seeks the way. Recently, he seems to have taken an interest in rapping as well.
“Don't expect practicality in your collection”

Q: According to a piece of concept art *[the image in question, translated by me]* C.Q Cumber is a "created life form" and there seems to be more than one.

A: Conductors are required to be flexible and able to handle a variety of things necessary in order to keep the Deepsea Metro in operation. Sea cucumbers are very flexible, so for this reason they were deemed the best choice. The sea cucumbers at each station may look the same, but they’re actually different. You can see them being relatively relaxed when they’re waiting, so please take a look at the conductors right after you enter each station.

Q: It seems that "Sanitization" means more than just cleansing. What exactly happens to the Sanitized Octarians?

A: Sanitization is to purge life's energies so that they no longer cause unnecessary hesitation and instability in the mind, and to become a part of the loyal Kamabo Corporation. It is said that Dedf1sh wasn’t against the idea of being sanitized, and did it so that she could give up her doubts and conflicts about production and devote herself entirely to music.

Dedf1sh, the active DJ who is also sanitized.

Q: What is the purpose of Kamabo Co. turning Octarians that complete the challenge into a paste?

A: The Kamabo Corporation analyzed the reasons for the extinction of the human race and identified that the cause was the desire to fight with others. They believed that by analyzing the data of each individual through experimentation, and by combining all the best individuals together, they can eliminate the general idea of the individual. And from there, a new lifeform could be created, and a harmonious world would be born.

Q: What kind of person was The Professor that Commander Tartar talks about, the one who created it 12,000 years ago? Is there any connection between it and The Professor who created Judd and Li’l Judd 12,000 years ago?

A: The Professor was worried about the loss of mankind due to its own mistakes, and he wanted to help intelligent life that would appear later so that they would not make the same mistakes as humanity. He did so by leaving behind the results of his research, an artificial intelligence. He is the same Professor who left behind Judd. For those in the future he left Judd to carry the warmth of life, and at the same time, he left an artificial intelligence to think logically and correctly. Judd and the Telephone, both with the same immortal life, and are two who have been watching Ink battles for a long time.
Judd, Li’l Judd, and The Professor are discussed in the Sunken Scrolls.

Q: What's so special about the fluorescent green substance common to Brainwashed Agent 3, Sanitized Octarians, and Commander Tartar?

A: It's a blended ink. I think it looks like it has a marbled pattern. If you bathe in that ink for a long time, your head will be repainted with Kamabo Co.’s ideas.

Commander Tartar's whole body seems to be stained with the thoughts of Kamabo Corporation.

Q: Why does Commander Tartar take the form of a Telephone?

A: The diligent Octarians recognize as friends those who look and act like them. That's why it takes the form of an old Telephone, whose face is similar to that of an octopus. Incidentally, in the previous game, Cap’n Cuttlefish was able to investigate the Octarian army for many years because the Octarians thought he was an ally...